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(County of Derby)



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ON THE

HEALTH & SANITARY CONDITION

of the

URBAN DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER

for the Year

1941

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(DERBYSHIRE)



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1941

Bolsover Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1941.

Medical Officer of Health.

DR. A. H. WEAR, M.D., D.P.H., B.Hy.
Dale Close, 100, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield.
(Tel. No. 811 Mansfield).

Deputy Medical Officer (Part-time).

DR. JOHN BENJAMIN MCKAY, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector (Full-time).

(Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Inspector under Shops Acts and Petroleum Acts).

ERNEST BOOTH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

From 1st November, 1930.

Tel. No. 5 Bolsover.

(Council Offices).

Other Full-time Chief Officers of the Council

Clerk and Accountant, etc.

W. VEEVERS (from Feb. 19th, 1934).

Surveyor and Housing Architect and Cleansing Supt.

SYDNEY HOTEN (from 12th August, 1919).

Collector—

G. H. HALEY (from 1st Feb., 1937).

Manager of Electricity Undertaking—

ARTHUR HODGSON (from 15th Sept., 1927).

Baths Superintendent—

HENRY SENIOR (from 20th July, 1925).

PREFACE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOLSOVER
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MRS. THOMAS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your district for the year, 1941—the second complete year spent under the shadow of the War cloud.

This war has increased the normal load of responsibility, and introduced some new activities within the ambit of the Health Services. At no time is it so vital to safeguard the health of the community.

The health of the District has been satisfactory, except for an outbreak of whooping cough, and the number of cases of scabies treated at the Bolsover Baths has also been greater than during the last year.

I wish to take the opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued interest and support.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR.

“ Dale Close,”
100, Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield, Notts.

SECTION A.

Statistics of the Area

Area (acres)	4,526
Rateable Value, 1941	£49,440
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1941	£185

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total Males Females			
Legitimate	175	88	87	{ Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18.33.
Illegitimate.....	5	4	1	
STILL BIRTHS	6	3	3	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 32.30.

	Total Males Females			
DEATHS	103	60	43	{ Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.47.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	5.2
Total	1	5.2

DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	21.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....	22.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.....

DEATHS FROM :—

Measles (all ages)	.....	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	—
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	.....	—
Cancer (all ages)	.....	14
Influenza	.....	—
Tuberculosis	.....	6
Heart Disease	.....	32
Pneumonia	.....	3

The Infantile death-rate of 21.7 is the lowest ever recorded in Bolsover. The rate this year for England and Wales is 59 and for London 68.

The Birth rate, although not quite so high as in 1940, is still much greater than many other areas.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1941.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION								RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.				
		All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year		
England and Wales	..	14.2	0.51	12.9	0.00	—	0.03	0.00	0.06	0.07	0.19	—	5.1	59
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	..	14.7	0.58	14.9	0.00	—	0.03	0.00	0.07	0.08	0.17	—	7.5	71
148 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted) Populations 20,000—50,000	..	16.4	0.60	13.0	0.00	—	0.03	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.20	—	4.6	56
London	..	8.9	0.33	16.3	0.01	—	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.03	1.15	—	6.8	68
BOLSOVER U.D.	..	18.33	0.61	10.4	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—	21

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area

Laboratory Facilities.

No changes or developments have been made in connection with laboratory facilities. The number of types of specimens dealt with by the County Laboratories were as follows :—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Enterica—			
Typhoid, Para-Typhoid A. & B.	—	—	—
Gaertner, Dysentery, etc.	—	—	—
Diphtheria 	3	21	24
Phthisis 	—	8	8
Water 	1	—	1
	4	29	33

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water.

This is supplied by the Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Board. Samples are taken for bacteriological examination frequently and the results are consistently satisfactory. The hardness at the present time is 12% and .15 parts per million of chlorine is added.

Closet Accommodation.

The following are the number of closets in use at the end of 1941.

Water closets	.....	2662
Pail closets	.....	40
Privies	.....	85
Elsan Closets	.....	17

Privies are emptied monthly and the refuse carted onto farm land. Cesspools are emptied once a week and pail closets twice a week.

Meat and other Foods.

Meat is still slaughtered and distributed from the Public Abattoir at Chesterfield. It is again examined before distribution at the Centre in Bolsover.

Knacker's Yard.

On the receipt of a complaint by the Food Officer on April 19th, I visited the Knacker's Yard in Oxcroft Lane, together with the Chairman and Clerk. We found a most disgraceful state of affairs, and on May 17th fines totally to £25 were imposed at the Chesterfield Police Court on the owner for

1. Failing to provide proper drainage.
2. Using unauthorised premises as a knacker's yard.
3. Failing to keep the premises properly cleansed after slaughtering.
4. Failing to cause refuse products after slaughtering to be removed from the slaughter house.
5. Failing to impregnate the carcase of a sheep with colouring solution 24 hours after slaughter.

Since the fine was imposed the owner has carried out extensive alterations and the premises are now in a satisfactory condition.

The Ministry of Health have agreed to Bolsover adopting a Byelaw under Section 58 (1) (b) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, making it compulsory for owners of knackers' yards in the Urban District to keep records and to produce them when required.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply.

52 cowsheds, dairies and milkshops are registered in the district, and during the year one cowshed was reconstructed.

No samples of milk have been taken for analysis.

The National Milk Scheme continues to be popular. It is very essential if the nutrition of the children and expectant mothers is to be maintained that they should have extra milk at a cheap rate. The number of permits for liquid milk is now 789, of which 79 are free and 710 at 2d. a pint.

The consumption of National Dried Milk has gone up as the difficulty in obtaining other kinds of dried milk increases. The introduction of half cream milk has been a great boon in the case of some delicate children who are unable to digest full cream milk.

Nutrition.

Arrangements for the provision of free Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices in the form of black currant juice and black currant puree were made during 1941 for children up to two years of age. 65% of the children entitled are taking advantage of this.

With regard to the milk supplied by the state either free or at a cheap rate (2d. a pint), 84% of those entitled are taking it.

In addition, 2,400 meals are given to school children every week, so that the general nutrition of the children of Bolsover is being well looked after.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1941.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified												Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths	
	At Ages—years														
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & upwds			
Small-pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	1	1	1	2	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	7	..
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
Pneumonia	2	1	1	2	2	4	1	1	..	5	3	..	..	2	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	8	5	15	8	10	28	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	15	12	17	29	30	54	7	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
	25	18	34	41	43	91	14	6	15	4	5	1	14	8	
	297	168	77	168	77	168	77	168	77	168	77	168	77	168	

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other Diseases.

Diphtheria.

Only 7 cases were notified during 1941, compared with 11 in 1940, and 100 in 1939. All were removed to hospital. There were no deaths.

Antitoxin is supplied free to the Medical Practitioners and in every case it is given promptly.

Immunisation.

One of the good things to come out of this war will be the protection of child life from diphtheria. Immunisation is simply the injection under the skin of a few drops of fluid in two doses with an interval of 4 weeks. The procedure which is simple, safe, and nothing worse than a pin prick is best done early in a child's life. After injections, a few weeks are needed for full protection to develop. There is no doubt that immunisation reduces the incidence of clinical diphtheria to 1/10th of the usual figure and the fatality of the disease to zero.

During 1941, 99 toddlers and 1,138 school children were immunised, that is 11% of toddlers and 65% of school children in the Bolsover U.D. The percentage for school children is moderately satisfactory, but that for toddlers is poor.

Scarlet Fever.

Five notifications were received. The disease was of a mild type and four cases were admitted into hospital.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

77 notifications of Measles and 168 of Whooping Cough were received. The Whooping Cough epidemic occurred during the Summer months and consequently the complications were few and there were no deaths.

Food Poisoning.

During the month of August, 19 cases of food poisoning were notified, of which 18 were from Bolsover, and one from Hillstown in the Blackwell R.D.

The persons affected had attended a wedding feast where ham and tongue had been eaten. All who partook of the tongue were ill, but, fortunately, they recovered.

I was lucky enough to obtain the remains of the tongue and this, together with the faeces of one of the patients, was forwarded to the Emergency Laboratory at Lincoln. *Bacilli aertryke* (*Bact. typhomurium*) was found in both.

The tongue was obtained by a butcher from the Public Abattoir at Chesterfield, on August 2nd, and put in brine. It was taken out of brine on August 21st, boiled and delivered to the customer on August 25th, the day of the wedding.

It was unfortunate that I was unable to obtain specimens of the brine from which the tongue had been taken; the weather was very warm at the time and the tongue had apparently decomposed during the three days after it was taken from the brine. The butcher stated his wife had eaten some of the tongue without ill effect on the second day.

Several of the persons attending the wedding feast stated that the tongue had a disagreeable taste.

Scabies.

The most outstanding cause of invalidity in this district was an outbreak of scabies which affected practically the whole area. The infection in many cases was brought into the district by soldiers coming home on leave.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during the year.

Age Periods in years			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
10	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	..	..	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
20	..	..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	..	..	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	..	..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
45	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..			4	2	1	—	5	—	1	—

The phthisis death-rate is 0.50 per 1,000 of the population.

No action has been taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is nil. All deaths this year had been previously notified.

